

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09963 091346Z

43

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05

INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SP-02 RSC-01

PM-03 /047 W

----- 130544

O R 091252Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 687

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9963

LIMDIS

E.O. 1162: GS

TAGS: PFOR IR SA YE YS UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET MILITARY MISSION FOR NORTH YEMEN

REF TEHRAN 10357; CAIRO 9948; SANAA 2499

1. WHEN MEETING WITH ASHRAF MARWAN TODAY, HE REITERATED TO ME THAT "SOMETHING FUNNY IS GOING ON IN YAR" AND WONDERED WHETHER THIS MIGHT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH VISITING SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION. HE HAD DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT YESTERDAY WITH KAMAL ADHAM, WHO HAD NO RPT NO SPECIFIC INFO BUT WAS ALSO SUSPICIOUS.

2. MARWAN RECALLED THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO THE YAR LAST MONTH, HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH COLONEL HAMDI PROFFERED EGYPTIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. AT THE YAR'S REQUEST, GOE HAD AGREED TO END A MILITARY MISSION OF 26 OFFICERS AND 65 NCO'S TO HELP TRAIN YAR ARMY. THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY MISSION WAS TO BE DEPLOYED IN LATE DECEMBER. COSTS WERE TO BE BORNE BY SAG. HAMDI'S CONCEPT HAD BEEN, SO SAYS MARWAN, THAT THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY MISSION WOULD REPLACE THE PRESENT JORDANIAN MILITARY

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 09963 091346Z

ADVISERS.

3. ON DECEMBER 1, THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO YAR, WHO WAS HERE ON CONSULTATION, HAD PAID A COURTESY CALL ON YAR AMBASSADOR MASWARI BEFORE RETURNING TO SANAA. MASWARI TOLD HIM YAR WANTED EGYPTIAN MILITARY MISSION POSTPONED AND SUBSEQUENTLY MADE A FORMAL CALL AT ARAB DEPT OF MFA TO SO INDICATE. A FEW DAYS LATER, ACCORDING TO MASWARI, HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM MAJOR ABU SHAWARIB IN SANAA INSTRUCTING HIM TO ADVISE GOE THAT THE PROPOSED MILITARY MISSION SHOULD BE CANCELLED. MASWARI REFUSED TO DO SO WITHOUT HAMDI'S DIRECT ORDERS. SINCE HAMDI WAS APPARENTLY IN THE SAME ROOM, HE GOT ON THE PHONE AND INSTRUCTED MASWARI TO ASK THAT THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY MISSION BE POSTPONED FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS. SUBSEQUENTLY, HAMDI TOLD THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN SANAA THAT HIS REASON FOR WANTING A POSTPONEMENT FOR "SIX OR EIGHT MONTHS" IS THAT HE WISHES TO REORGANIZE THE YAR ARMY. THIS WILL TAKE SOME TIME. HENCE, THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE NEED

4. ACCORDING TO MARWAN, ADHAM BELIEVES HAMDI'S ACTION MAY HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY ANNOYANCE OVER SAUDI MODA PRINCE SULTAN'S PRESSURE ON YAR TO REMOVE AL-AYNI. ADHAM REPORTEDLY BELIEVES HAMDI'S RESENTS SUCH INTERFERENCE IN YAR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. ADHAM ALSO SUGGESTED HAMDI MIGHT BE ANNOYED AT SAUDI MILITARY MISSION'S RECOMMENDATION THAT REORGANIZATION OF YAR ARMY BE APPREAD OUT OVER TEN YEARS. HAMDI WAS ALLEGEDLY ALSO UNHAPPY ABOUT US MILITARY MISSION SUGGESTION FOR ASSISTANCE TO YAR ARMY FOR ONE YEAR. HAMDI, ADHAM BELIEVES AND MARWAN CONCURS, WANTS TO MOVE RAPIDLY TO STRENGTHEN YAR ARMY. MARWAN WAS ALSO AWARE OF YAR DISPLEASURE WITH CONDITION OF EGYPTIAN-SUPPLIED TANKS AND EQUIPMENT.

5. MARWAN STATED EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN SANAA IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO KEEP A CLOSE EYES ON CURRENT SOVIET DISCUSSIONS WITH YAR MILITARY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY VISITS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAIRO09963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740356-0655
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741251/aaaabrij.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: TEHRAN 10357; CAIRO 9948; SANAA 2499
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET MILITARY MISSION FOR NORTH YEMEN
TAGS: PFOR, IR, SA, YE, YS, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005